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REGULATIONS

OF THE

NEW RUPTURE SOCIETY,

(ESTABLISHED JULY 4, 1805,)

FOR THE RELIEF OF

BOTH SEXES

AFFLICTED WITH

HERNIARY COMPLAINTS

AND

PROLAPSES.

LONDON:

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July 1805.

§ I. GENERAL REGULATIONS.

1. No persons shall be deemed proper objects of this charity, who are not really necessitous, and afflicted either with ruptures or prolapses.

2. The affairs of the “NEW RUPTURE SOCIETY” shall be managed by a committee of governors; consisting of one patron, two or more vice-patrons, one president, twelve or more vice-presidents, two joint-treasurers, all the life-subscribers of fifteen guineas, and so many yearly subscribers (of not less than two guineas each) as may be approved by a ballot in the said committee, and confirmed at an annual general meeting; among whom shall also be included the surgeon or surgeons, and secretary or secretaries for the time being, so long as they or either of them do render his or their services gratuitously to this institution.

3. All acts of the committee of governors (who are required to meet every month) shall be subject to the examination of a general meeting of the permanent subscribers regularly convened; to whom shall be submitted a fair report of their proceedings, at least four times in every year; without which, their proceedings shall be invalid and non-effective, after the expiration of three calendar months.

4. No annual contributor of less than two guineas shall be considered as a permanent subscriber to this

institution, entitled to vote at general meetings and elections, until he shall have subscribed twelve months at least, and his or her contribution shall have been paid in advance for the second year; but all life-subscribers of fifteen guineas each, or making up that sum in one year, and likewise all those who pay two or more guineas per annum, shall, after twenty-one days, be entitled to the above privileges, and be eligible to the committee of governors.

5. All honorary offices, held without gratuity, fee, or reward, shall be proposed and recommended by the committee of governors, to be filled up at an annual general meeting; and retained during life, unless otherwise determined by a subsequent annual general meeting, at the suggestion of the said committee.

6. Life-subscribers of fifteen guineas, and contributors of not less than two guineas each per annum to the New Rupture Society, shall be denominated *governors* of this charity; but subscribers of smaller sums shall be denominated *members*, and allowed to recommend patients in the following ratio, viz.

For every guinea subscribed per annum, as well as for every life subscription, two patients (whether afflicted with ruptures or prolapses) may be recommended within the year, to be provided with trusses or bandages, not exceeding the expense of nine shillings each; or one patient requiring a truss or bandage, valued at more than nine shillings and not above eighteen shillings. The same ratio is to be observed, and similar advantages extended, in the like proportion, to subscribers of larger sums.

7. On every question to be decided by ballot, the governors shall be entitled to two votes each;

and the members to one vote. A ballot may be demanded by any three governors at a general meeting.

8. The principal of all life subscriptions and donations of fifteen guineas or upwards, shall remain as a permanent fund to supply the future exigencies of this society.

9. The application of all dividends, and such annual subscriptions as have been, or may be received, shall be under the direction of the committee, until further instructions be given by a general meeting.

10. No gratuity or new salary whatsoever shall be voted to any officer who hath heretofore served this charity, or doth now or may hereafter belong to the same, except at the annual general meeting; public notice for that purpose being also given, by an order from the monthly committee, in two or more of the daily papers, twice in each.

11. There shall be no alteration of any of the fundamental laws for the government of this charity, except at a general meeting; and any alterations that may be adopted shall not be deemed valid, until confirmed by a subsequent general meeting.

§ II. OF GENERAL MEETINGS.

1. A quarterly general meeting shall be holden at two o'clock P. M. precisely, on the first Thursday in July, October, January, and April, in every year, when five governors shall constitute a board; and the meeting in April shall be called the *annual* general meeting.

2. The patron, either of the vice-patrons, the president, any two of the vice-presidents, both

the treasurers, or the monthly committee, shall have power to call a special general meeting at any other time; giving at least one week's notice thereof, by an advertisement in two or more of the daily papers, specifying the reason of convening such meeting.

3. Only the special business, for which any special meeting of the subscribers shall have been advertised and convened, can be entered upon at such meeting.

4. At the *annual* meeting in April, at least twenty governors shall be elected from among the subscribers of not less than two guineas per annum, to be members of the committee for the year ensuing.

5. At the annual meeting, a report of the committee, concerning the state of the finances and the number of patients admitted during the preceding year, shall be read, for the information of the subscribers at large,

§ III. COMMITTEE OF GOVERNORS.

1. The committee of governors shall meet on the last Thursday in every month, at seven o'clock P. M., precisely.

2. At all monthly committees, any three governors shall constitute a quorum.

3. The committee, at their first and second monthly meetings after every quarterly general meeting, shall, previous to the transaction of any other business, audit the accounts; and authorize the debts to be discharged, by drafts on the treasurers, signed by three members of the committee, and countersigned by the secretary or sub-secretary.

At their third monthly meeting they shall prepare

the necessary business to be laid before the next quarterly general meeting, and examine the surgeon's register of patients who may have been relieved.

4. At the last meeting of this committee, previous to the annual general meeting in April, they shall consider of and ballot for five proper persons to succeed an equal number, who are then to go out of the committee; this nomination being subject to the approbation or alteration of the annual general meeting.

5. The monthly committee shall have power to resolve itself, or any number of its members, into a subordinate committee for special purposes, whenever they may think it necessary.

6. One of the treasurers, or three members of the monthly committee, may at any time, by writing, authorize the secretary, or sub-secretary, to summon a special meeting of the committee of governors; who shall convene the same accordingly, by a circular letter delivered to each member thereof, giving at least two days previous notice.

7. All subscribers may attend the monthly meetings of the committee, and offer their opinion on any special business; but cannot vote, unless they be members of the said committee.

§ IV. THE ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. At all meetings of this society, the chair shall be taken at the hour specified in the summons, provided a quorum be present.

2. The minutes of the preceding meeting shall be read and proposed by the chairman for confirmation.

3. The chairman shall permit only one person to speak at a time on the matter under discussion;

and no motion shall be considered as regularly under debate, until the same shall have been openly proposed and seconded. Any one speaking to order shall be first heard.

4. To prevent misunderstanding at any meeting respecting the subject of debate, the mover of a resolution shall put the same in writing, before the chairman submit it to the vote or determination of the members present.

5. The name of the person who shall make any motion respecting new matter, with the name of the person who shall second such motion, shall be inserted in the minutes, provided his motion be adopted.

6. The chairman is requested to subscribe his name to the fair minutes or resolutions which shall have been made during such meetings ; and to see that the same do correspond in all material points with the rough minutes.

§ V. THE SURGEON OR SURGEONS.

1. They are to be members of the Royal College of Surgeons, in London ; and no surgeons practising pharmacy or midwifery, shall be deemed eligible to this institution.

2. The surgeon is authorized to order trusses or bandages for those patients who may apply to him, properly recommended by subscribers to the New Rupture Society.

3. The surgeon's register of the patients shall (every quarter at least) be submitted to the inspection of the committee.

4. The surgeon, under the sanction of the committee, shall be empowered to prescribe for necessary medicines.

§ VI. VACANCIES AND ELECTIONS.

1. In case of any office becoming vacant, by death, resignation, or neglect of duty, one of the treasurers, or three members of the committee of governors, shall, within the next seven days, cause a special meeting of the committee to be called, giving at least two days previous notice; at which meeting such vacancy shall be taken into consideration, and the circumstances, if deemed necessary, submitted to a general meeting.

2. When any vacancy by death, resignation, or neglect of duty, shall be declared at a general meeting, a time and place for the election of a new officer shall be then appointed, to take place in not less than twenty-one days next after the time of the declaration of such vacancy; public notice thereof being immediately given in three of the daily papers, at least twice in each, and in any other manner the committee may think proper.

3. No governor or member, being six calendar months in arrear, shall be entitled to vote at any election; nor any new governor, whose subscription shall not have been paid previous to the declaration of the vacancy.

4. The nobility, vice-presidents, members of parliament, and such as have contributed fifteen guineas within one year, ladies, and subscribers who are declared by their medical attendants to be incapable, from sickness, of appearing personally, may appoint, in writing, any of the subscribers as their proxies, to vote at elections.

5. All contested elections shall be conducted by ballot, agreeably to the following regulations:

§ VII. REGULATIONS AT ELECTIONS.

1. The chair shall be taken according to precedence, at twelve o'clock, and each candidate for the vacant office may depute a governor to be scrutineer on his part. The secretary or sub-secretary shall provide an accurate list of subscribers to the charity, with the number of votes each is entitled to give, for the use of the candidates, and the chairman; also a sufficient number of each of the candidates' names, written or printed, on a small piece of paper.

2. Every person offering to vote shall deliver the paper containing the name of the candidate for whom he intends to vote, into the hands of the chairman, who shall deposit the same in a box or glass, to be provided for that purpose.

3. The sub-secretary and scrutineer shall write down the name of each subscriber who votes; and if any person shall offer to ballot whose right appears dubious, or shall be objected against by either of the scrutineers, the chairman shall indorse his name on the paper he delivers in, and lay the same aside, to be allowed or rejected by a ballot of the subscribers present, after all the other votes shall have been taken.

4. At the close of the ballot the several lists shall be compared and adjusted, before the box or glass be opened; the number of papers shall then be respectively counted, and if the whole together agree with the number of names taken down as before mentioned, the chairman, first announcing who has the majority of votes, shall declare such person to be duly elected: the whole proceedings

to be transacted in presence of the governors and members assembled.

5. All disputes concerning elections shall be determined by a ballot of the governors and members then present.

6. In all cases of an equality of ballots, the chairman, for the time being, is entitled to a second or casting vote.

7. In every case where two or more balloting tickets may happen to be folded together, they shall both or all be laid aside, and not counted in the ballot.

8. The doors of the balloting room shall be closed whilst the church clock is striking three.

9. If any governor or member entitled to vote, be in the balloting room, at the time of closing the door, he shall be permitted to do so immediately, although the clock may have struck three.

§ VIII. SERMON AND ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL.

1. A sermon shall be preached for the benefit of this charity once in every year or oftener, as the committee may think fit to appoint; the preacher to be also nominated by the committee.

2. An anniversary festival shall be held early in the month of April, to celebrate the institution of the New Rupture Society; when all the governors shall be invited, by a circular letter, to dine together, and be requested to bring their respective friends.

3. At this festival an annual report of the state of the finances of the charity, and of the

number of patients admitted during the preceding year, shall be publicly read from the chair.

4. The anniversary festival shall be managed by the stewards for the time being.

§ IX. TREASURERS AND TRUSTEE.

1. The treasurers shall issue, to the collector, the necessary printed receipts, properly numbered, and take an acknowledgment or cheque for the same: they shall order the collector to pay into their hands the money he may have received every month, or oftener, as they may think proper; and pay the drafts of three members of the committee, countersigned by the secretary or sub-secretary.

2. They shall exhibit an accurate statement of their accounts, every three months, to the committee appointed to audit the same; and the money remaining in their hands shall be invested in the public funds, if ordered at a general meeting.

3. All investments of money in the public funds, for the use of the New Rupture Society, shall be in the names of the two joint-treasurers and one of the vice-presidents, for the time being; who are to be parties to all bonds, contracts, and other pecuniary engagements of this society. Upon the death or resignation of either of them, his office shall be supplied at the next annual meeting; but until the vacancy be filled, the continuing officers or officer shall have full power to act for the society.

§ X. SECRETARIES, COLLECTOR, AND MESSENGER.

1. There shall be a secretary, and a sub-secretary.

2. The sub-secretary shall also be collector and messenger to this institution.

3. The sub-secretary shall attend all general meetings, committees, and audits, at the appointed hour, to keep accurate minutes of the proceedings, and to do all such business as the president or chairman may require.

4. He shall find two sureties, to be approved of by the committee ; who shall join with him in a bond to the treasurers and trustee, for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office as *collector*.

5. He shall regularly collect the annual subscriptions to the charity as they become due, keep a correct list thereof, and pay the same weekly to the treasurers or their order.

6. He shall be provided with a proper printed cheque-book ; and shall not receive any subscriptions or donations for the use of this institution, without giving the donor or subscriber a printed receipt for the same, countersigned by himself.

7. For his services he shall receive such remuneration as the governors may determine at their annual general meeting.

§ XI. FORM OF A RECOMMENDATORY LETTER.

NEW RUPTURE SOCIETY,

FOR THE RELIEF OF BOTH SEXES AFFLICTED, WITH
HERNIARY COMPLAINTS AND PROLAPSES.

I _____ being a
subscriber to this society, do recommend
_____ who lives at
to the care of Mr. BLAIR, Surgeon, N° 69 Great
Russel Street, Bloomsbury Square.

The _____ day of _____ 180

* * * Subscribers are requested to add their places of residence.

§ XII. RULES FOR THE PATIENTS.

1. No persons but those who are really indigent, and who have either a rupture or a bearing-down of their body, can be admitted to receive any benefit from this institution.

2. All patients must apply to the surgeon (as above directed) *at nine o'clock on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday morning*; except in very dangerous circumstances, when they will be allowed to see him, at his house, during any hour of the day.

3. Those persons whose cases require them to be visited at their own habitations, must give immediate notice to the surgeon; who will himself attend them within a moderate distance, or (if too remote) will endeavour to procure the necessary attendance, as speedily as possible.

4. If they neglect to apply or send to the surgeon, for the space of ten successive days, he is authorized to decline attending them.

5. They are punctually to observe the instructions given by the surgeon, or the truss-maker; and, when they shall have been dismissed, must take a printed letter of thanks to the subscriber who recommended them, or forfeit all relief from this charity in future.

6. Patients who are discharged for irregular and disorderly behaviour, can never again be considered as proper objects of this society.

7. No person can obtain a truss or bandage, without first procuring Mr. BLAIR's signature to the following ORDER:

§ XIII. FORM OF AN ORDER TO THE TRUSS-MAKER.

(N^o) *being a Patient of*
the NEW RUPTURE SOCIETY, under my
Care, you are hereby required to provide
a suitable Truss or Bandage, which must
afterwards be submitted to my Inspection.

To Mr.
Truss-maker.

(Signed) WILLIAM BLAIR,
Surgeon.

§ XIV. FORM OF A BEQUEST.

To such as are inclined to become Benefactors by
Will, the following Form of Bequest is re-
commended :

ITEM—I give and bequeath unto A. B. and C. D. the Sum of £ to be raised and paid out of my personal estate and effects, which by law I may or can charge with the payment thereof, upon trust and to the intent that they or either of them do pay the same to the Treasurers, or one of them (for the time being), of a charitable Institution called or known by the name of the NEW RUPTURE SOCIETY, for the relief of BOTH SEXES afflicted with herniary Complaints and Pro-lapses ; which said sum I desire may be applied towards carrying on the benevolent designs of the said Institution.

N. B. Gifts of lands, or money, or stock, by will, with direction to be laid out in the purchase of real estate, for the benefit of this charity, will be void by the Statute of Mortmain ; but money or stock may be given *without being directed to be laid out in lands.*

§ XIV. FORM OF THE RECEIPT.

N^o London, day of 180
Received of
the sum of pound shilling , *as a subscrip-*
tion for to the NEW RUPTURE SOCIETY,
due 180
£

Signed { HENRY HOARE,
 W. H. HOARE, } Treasurers.

Countersigned { JOHN SAWYER, } Collector.

* * * Printed under the inspection of a sub-committee, appointed by the General Court, held on the 4th of July, 1805 ; ROBERT THORNTON, Esq. M. P. in the chair.

W. E. ALLEN, *Secretary.*

